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L3: Entry 1 of 10

File: USPT

Nov 5, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6477563 B1

TITLE: Agent system and information processing method for same

Application Filing Date (1):
19990412

Brief Summary Text (5):

In recent years, information processing systems such as computers have seen progressive downsizing and advances in the development of network environments, such as the Internet. For this reason, the information processing equipment and methods are largely experiencing a shift to a distributed system in which elements such as data files and function libraries are distributed among nodes in a network. Along with the change, there have been further advancements in providing an open network environment, with local networks of companies and research laboratories, for example, being connected to wide area networks, such networks connected to wide area networks being known as open networks.

Brief Summary Text (6):

In a typical large-scale open network, data files or function libraries that are distributed among a plurality of nodes are often combined to form a single piece of software, this class of software being known as a distributed system. It can be envisioned that such distributed constituent elements can be moved to another node or directory or can be subjected to a change in name or access authority in response to node management or network management situations. In making such changes, however, the following problems arise.

Brief Summary Text (9):

In distributed systems, therefore, in order to configure software to provide flexible response to reliably provide service to users, it is very important to be able to respond flexibly to such changes. In particular in the change of such changes, it is desirable to be able to change a specification even after processing has started and, if at all possible, automatically, without the need for human intervention.

Brief Summary Text (11):

An agent system is a system in which an agent performs information processing with the goal of satisfying requests from a user. If a single system uses a plurality of agents, it is possible to perform highly efficient information processing in a distributed system such as a distributed processing network. Such system as to use a plurality of agents is known as a multi-agent system.

Brief Summary Text (13):

For example, in the Japanese Unexamined Patent Application publication H7-182174, there is disclosed a method of implementing remote programming. This remote programming is such programming as to transfer an agent from the node at which processing was begun to another node in a distributed system.

Brief Summary Text (23):

At the remote node 800R to which the agent was transferred, processing proceeds,

using the agent information within the agent information storage means 801R. There are cases in which the processing results in completion at the remote node 800R, and cases in which the agent is transferred back to the local node 800L. If the agent is transferred once again in this manner, the script execution will be executed again at the local node 800L. The above-noted remote programming enables flexible processing in a distributed system.

Brief Summary Text (31):

Even if an agent at a node is a mobile agent that has a function of mobility, unless another node at which the resource is to be used supports mobile agents, that agent will be forced to cooperate with another agent of the other node. That is, unless the other node has a means for receiving the agent information and causing the agent to act, even if it is possible to transfer the agent to that node, it will not be possible for the mobile agent to continue processing.

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